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LETTER DATED 26 JANUARY 2000 FROM THE CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit the decision of the Council of Heads of State of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) on further measures for the settlement of the conflict in Abkhazia, Georgia, extending the presence of the Collective Peacekeeping Forces of CIS in Abkhazia, Georgia, for six months (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) G. GATILOV

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Annex

Decision on further measures for the settlement of the conflict in Abkhazia, Georgia

The Council of Heads of State of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS),

Considering the need to give new impetus to the process of settling the conflict in Abkhazia, Georgia, on the basis of respect for the territorial integrity of Georgia within its internationally recognized borders in accordance with the provisions set out on this matter in previous decisions and documents of the United Nations, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and CIS,

Expressing concern that the acute humanitarian problems created by the conflict have not been resolved,

Regarding the establishment of an effective mechanism for giving effect to the inalienable right of the refugees and displaced persons to a safe and dignified return to the places of their former residence, primarily in Gali district (within its old borders), with international guarantees, as a priority task,

Noting the important role of the United Nations and other international organizations in the process of settling the conflict in Abkhazia, Georgia, and considering that it needs to be further strengthened,

Emphasizing the significance of the efforts made by the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG), by the Russian Federation as facilitator, by OSCE and by the States making up the Group of Friends of the Secretary-General of the United Nations in the peacemaking process,

Recognizing the stabilizing role of the Collective Peacekeeping Forces of CIS in the conflict zone, and with a view to their more active participation in ensuring the security of the refugees and temporarily displaced persons,

Has decided:

1. To extend the presence of the Collective Peacekeeping Forces of CIS in Abkhazia, Georgia, for six months from the date of signature of this Decision;

2. To confirm the mandate of the Collective Peacekeeping Forces of CIS in Abkhazia, Georgia, from 2 April 1999 until the adoption of this Decision;

3. To continue as soon as possible the consultations on ensuring implementation of previous decisions of the Council of Heads of State of CIS, inter alia with respect to the expansion of the security zone and the elaboration, on the basis of a mechanism agreed by the parties to the conflict, of a procedure for its implementation;

4. To inform the Security Council of this decision.

DONE in the Russian language in accordance with the procedure laid down by rule 20, paragraph 6, of the Rules of Procedure of the Council of Heads of State and Council of Heads of Government of the Commonwealth of Independent States. The original is in the keeping of the Executive Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States, which will send a true copy thereof to each State member of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

For Azerbaijan:

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For Armenia:
(Signed) R. KOCHARYAN
7 January 2000

For Belarus:

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For Georgia:
(Signed) E. SHEVARDNADZE
7 December 1999

For Kazakhstan:
(Signed) N. NAZARBAEV
18 October 1999

For Kyrgyzstan:
(Signed) A. AKAYE
7 October 1999

For Moldova:

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For the Russian Federation:
(Signed) B. YELTSIN
30 December 1999

For Tajikistan:
(Signed) E. RAKHMONOV
15 October 1999

For Turkmenistan:

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For Uzbekistan:
(Signed) I. KARIMOV
15 October 1999

For Ukraine:

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I hereby certify that the attached text is a copy of the authentic text of the Decision on further measures to settle the conflict in Abkhazia, Georgia, drawn up in accordance with the results of a vote by the Heads of States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States organized in accordance with rule 20, paragraph 6, of the Rules of Procedure of the Council of Heads of State and the Council of Heads of Government of the Commonwealth of Independent States approved by decision of the Council of Heads of State of the Commonwealth in Moscow on 17 May 1996. Copies of the above decision with the original signatures of the Heads of the States members of the Commonwealth are in the keeping of the Executive Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

(Signed) Yu. YAROV
Chairman of the Executive Committee
Executive Secretary
Commonwealth of Independent States